

Harappan Civilization



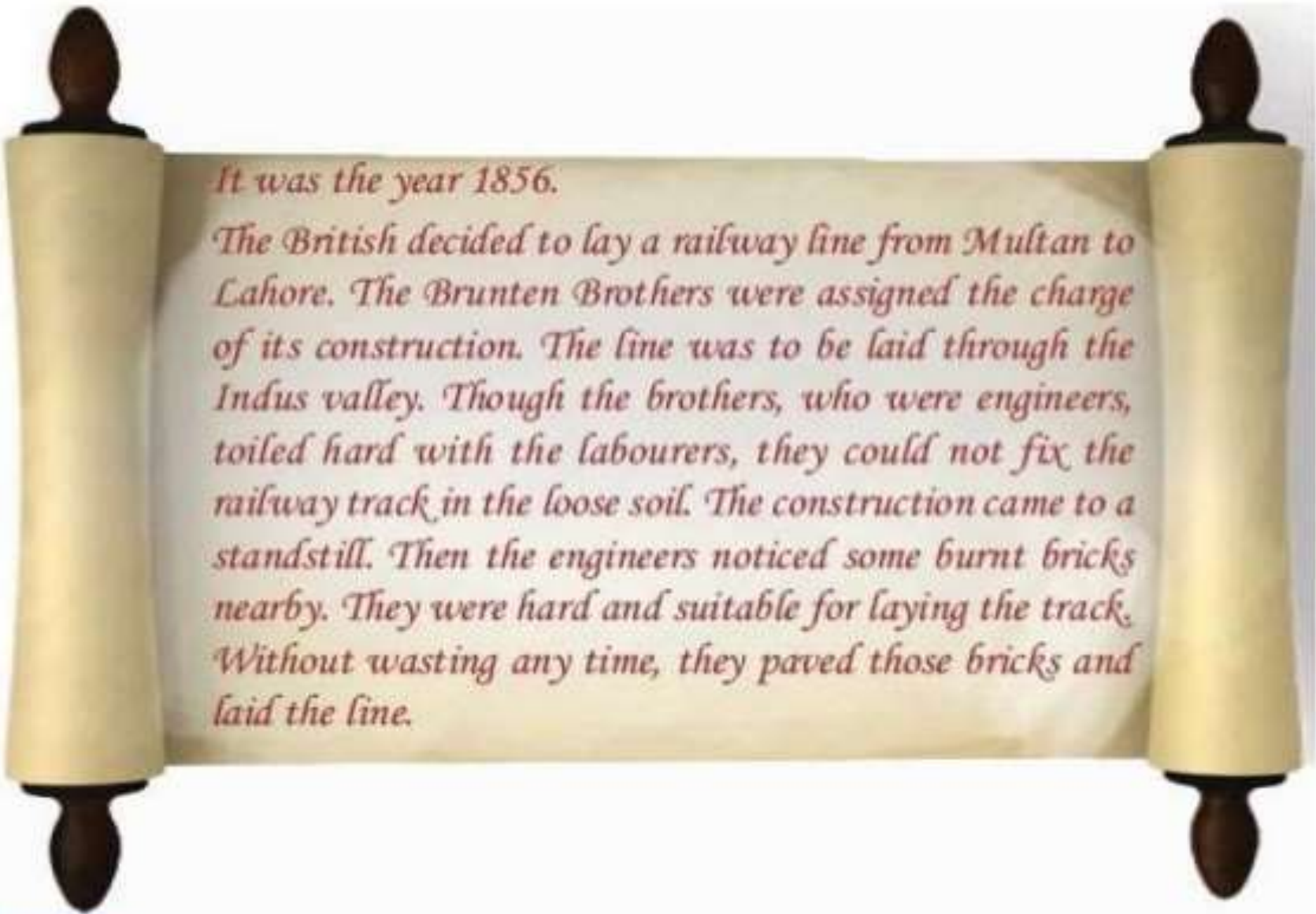
**PRESENTED BY:- MR. RAVINDER KUMAR
AP IN HISTORY**

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Introduction

Harappan civilization was discovered in 1920-22 when two of its most important sites were excavated. These were Harappa on the banks of the river Ravi and Mohenjo-Daro on the banks of the Indus. The first was excavated by D. R. Sahani and the second by R.D. Bannerji. On the basis of the archaeological findings the Harappan civilization has been dated between 2600 B.C-1900 BC and is one of the oldest civilizations of the world. It is also sometimes referred to as the 'Indus Valley civilization' because in the beginning majority of its settlements discovered were in and around the plains of the river Indus and its tributaries. But today it is termed as the Harappan civilization because Harappa was the first site, which brought to light the presence of this civilization. Besides, recent archaeological findings indicate that this civilization was spread much beyond the Indus Valley. Therefore, it is better it is called as the Harappan civilization. It is the first urban culture of India and is contemporaneous with other ancient civilizations of the world such as those of Mesopotamia and Egypt. Our knowledge of the life and culture of the Harappan people is based only on the archaeological excavations as the script of that period has not been deciphered so far.



It was the year 1856.

The British decided to lay a railway line from Multan to Lahore. The Brunten Brothers were assigned the charge of its construction. The line was to be laid through the Indus valley. Though the brothers, who were engineers, toiled hard with the labourers, they could not fix the railway track in the loose soil. The construction came to a standstill. Then the engineers noticed some burnt bricks nearby. They were hard and suitable for laying the track. Without wasting any time, they paved those bricks and laid the line.

❖ It was R D Banerji, who led the excavations in Mohenjodaro in the present Pakistan.



Sir John Marshall



R D Banerji



Daya Ram Sahni



The Pashupati Seal:

- C. 2500-2400 BC
- **Place of Origin:** Mohenjodaro
- This seal with buffalo-horned figure almost unanimously identified as Shiva in his form as Pashupati, Lord of animals
- He has been portrayed as seated cross-legged, that is, in Yogic 'padmasana', and wide-armed.
- The arms of the image pointing towards the earth, the Yogic nature of the wide-lapped stance and the curved horns
- Natural enemies, wild and virile animals, buffalo, leaping tiger, rhinoceros and elephant all amicably surround the figure.

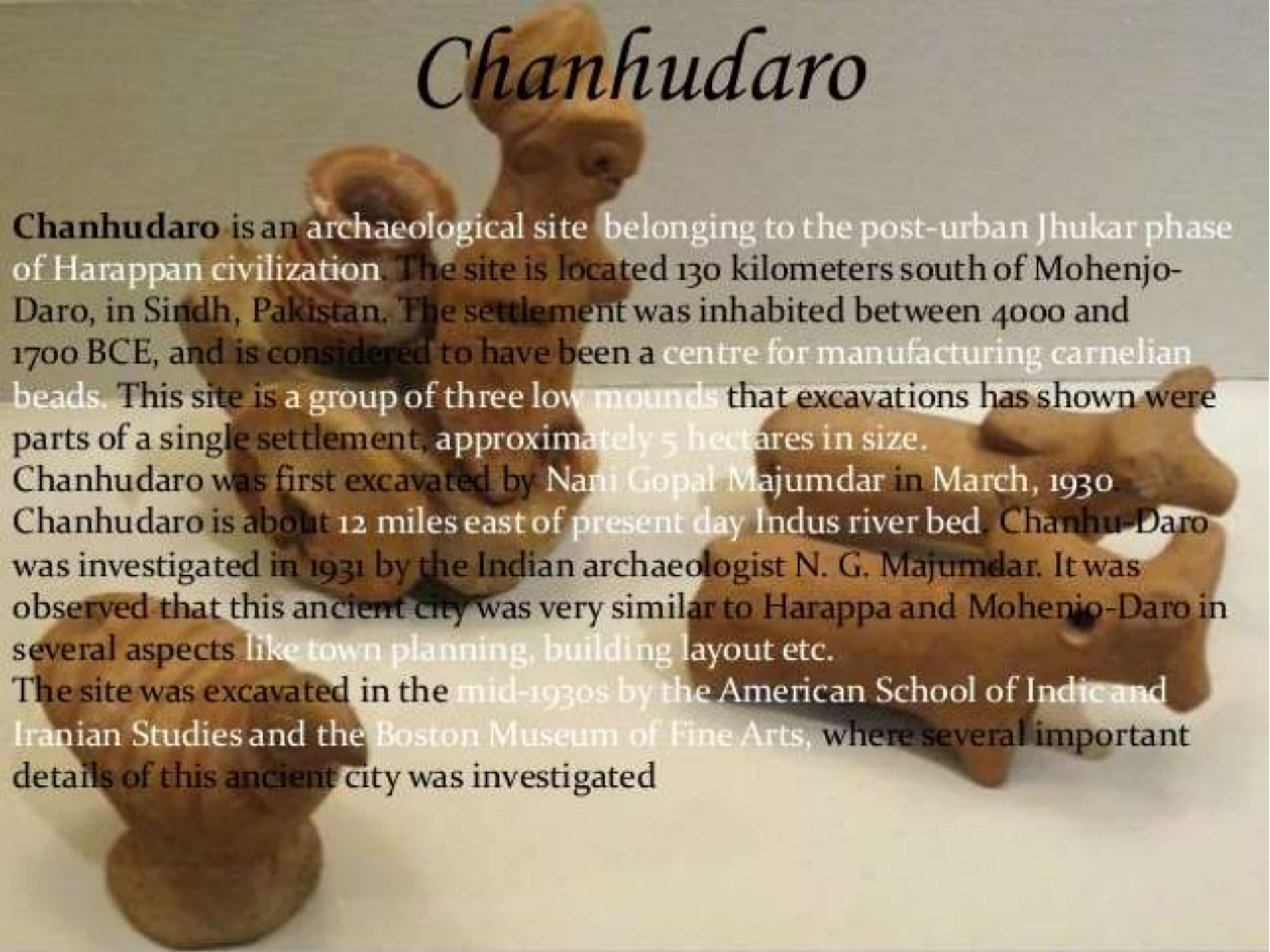
Some Specimen Of ART & CRAFT



A Deeper Look Into The Harappan Civilization



Chanhudaro



Chanhudaro is an archaeological site belonging to the post-urban Jhukar phase of Harappan civilization. The site is located 130 kilometers south of Mohenjo-Daro, in Sindh, Pakistan. The settlement was inhabited between 4000 and 1700 BCE, and is considered to have been a centre for manufacturing carnelian beads. This site is a group of three low mounds that excavations has shown were parts of a single settlement, approximately 5 hectares in size.

Chanhudaro was first excavated by Nani Gopal Majumdar in March, 1930. Chanhudaro is about 12 miles east of present day Indus river bed. Chanhu-Daro was investigated in 1931 by the Indian archaeologist N. G. Majumdar. It was observed that this ancient city was very similar to Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro in several aspects like town planning, building layout etc.

The site was excavated in the mid-1930s by the American School of Indic and Iranian Studies and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, where several important details of this ancient city was investigated

HARAPPAN SEALS

- The most interesting part of the discovery relates to the seals—more than 2000 in number, made of soapstone, terracotta and copper. The seals give us useful information about the civilization of Indus valley. Some seals have human or animal figures on them. Most of the seals have the figures of real animals while a few bear the figure of mythical animals. The seals are rectangular, circular or even cylindrical in shape.
- The seals even have an inscription of a sort of pictorial writing. Most of the seals have a knob at the back through which runs a hole. It is said that these seals were used by different associations or merchants for stamping purposes. They were also worn round the neck or the arm

Important Seals



The Humped Bull Seal



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- The rarity of humped bull seals is curious because the humped bull is a recurring theme in many of the ritual and decorative arts of the Indus region, appearing on painted pottery and as figurines long before the rise of cities and continuing on into later historical times.
- The humped bull may symbolize the leader of the herd, whose strength and virility protects the herd and ensures the procreation of the species or it stands for a sacrificial animal.

The seals show the culture and civilization of the Indus Valley people. In particular, they indicate:

- Dresses, ornaments, hair-styles of people.
- Skill of artists and sculptors.
- Trade contacts and commercial relations.
- Religious beliefs.
- Script.



End Of Civilisation

Climate, economic, and social changes all played a role in the process of urbanization and collapse, but these changes affected the human population.

When pale climate archaeology, and human skeletal biology approaches are combined, scientists can glean important insights from the past, addressing long-standing and socially relevant questions.

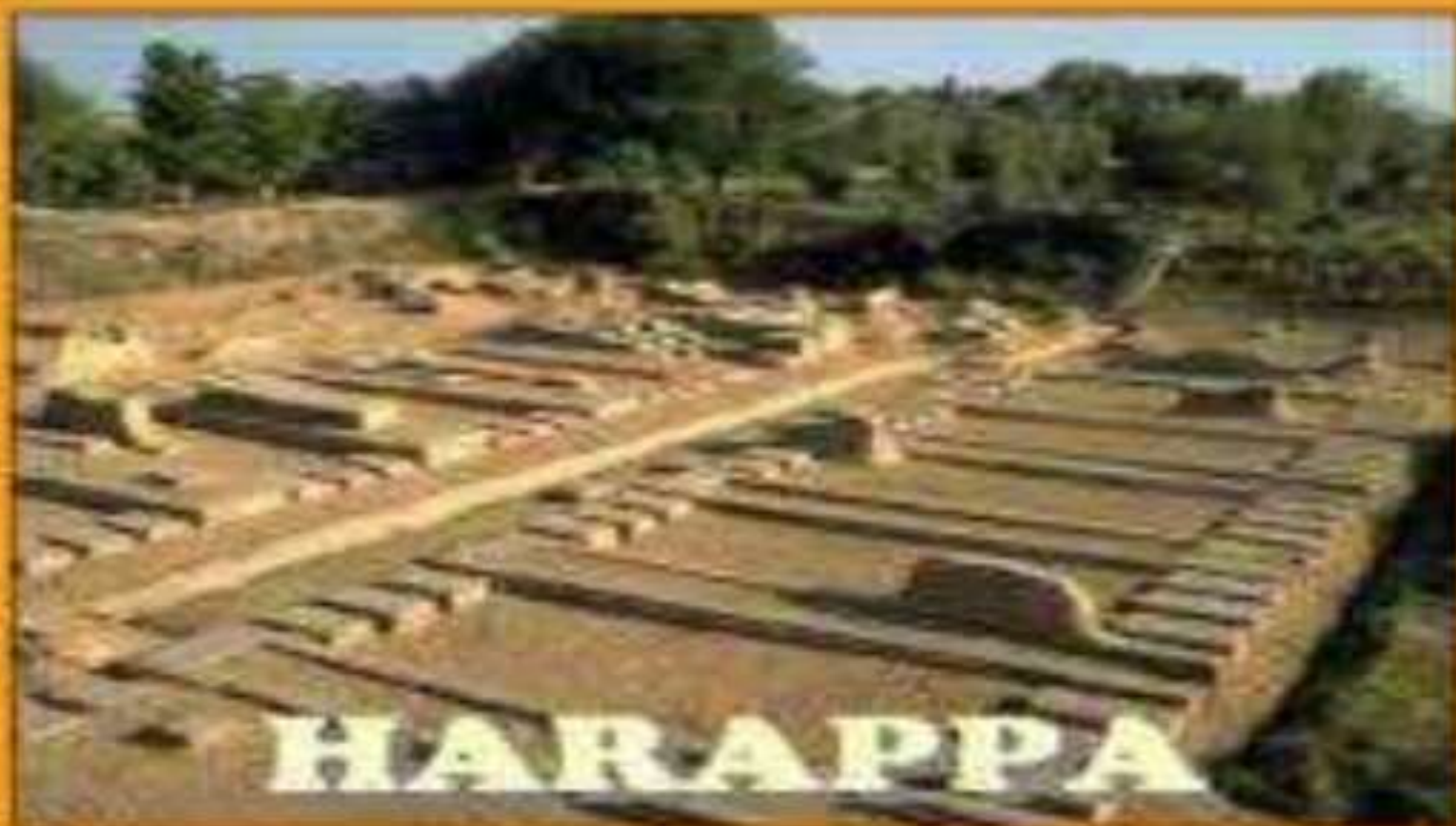
“Early research had proposed that ecological factors were the cause of the demise, but there wasn't much pale-environmental evidence to confirm those theories. In the past few decades, there have been refinements to the available techniques for reconstructing pale-environments and burgeoning interest in this field,” Dr Schug said.

“Scientists cannot make assumptions that climate changes will always equate to violence and disease. However, in this case, it appears that the rapid urbanization process in Harappan cities, and the increasingly large amount of culture contact, brought new challenges to the human population. Infectious diseases like leprosy and tuberculosis were probably transmitted across an interaction sphere that spanned Middle and South Asia.”

“As the environment changed, the exchange network became increasingly incoherent. When you combine that with social changes and this particular cultural context, it all worked together to create a situation that became untenable,” Dr Schug said.

Dr Schug and her colleagues examined evidence for trauma and infectious disease in the human skeletal remains from three burial areas at the city of Harappa. Their findings counter longstanding claims that the Harappan civilization developed as a peaceful, cooperative, and egalitarian state-level society, without social differentiation, hierarchy, or differences in access to basic resources.

Indus valley civilization → Harappa



- ❖ Neither the labourers nor the engineers realised that those burnt bricks were the remains of a great civilization that existed centuries back.
- ❖ Later, when Sir John Marshall was the director of the Archaeological Survey of India, an excavation was undertaken in 1921.
- ❖ It revealed that the bricks were the ruins of a great civilization.



- ❖ The excavations revealed that a civilization had existed in the valleys of the river Indus and its. Hence, this civilization came to be known as the Indus valley civilization.



- ❖ The first excavation was conducted in Harappa in the present Pakistan. It was led by Daya Ram Sahni.
- ❖ Since the first evidence for the Indus valley civilization was obtained from Harappa, this civilization is also known as the Harappan civilization.

- ❖ In Mohenjodaro a great tank, called the Great Bath, was discovered. It is an evidence for the architectural skill of the people of that period.
- ❖ Granaries are significant among the ruins discovered from Harappa.



The Great Bath



The ruins of the granary

- ❖ In Kalibangan in Rajasthan farming was done by ploughing the land. The figures of ploughs made of clay were discovered from here.
- ❖ In addition to agriculture, animal husbandry also existed.
- ❖ The figures of rhinoceros and elephants made of clay have also been found.



Clay plough



Clay figures of animals

Thanks

